

REMARKS

New claims 43-44 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully request the examination of all the claims which are directed to subject matter readable on the elected invention, and related to claims allowed and issued in the parent applications of the present application. The subject matter of the new claims is fully supported in the specification. In particular, support for new claims 43-44 are supported at page 104, lines 22-32; page 105, line 35; and page 106, line 24. No new matter is added.

The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Is Obviated

New claims 43 and 44 are drawn to biased combinatorial gene expression libraries wherein the expression constructs in the libraries are made with cosmid vectors that comprises an autonomously replicating sequence of *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*.

In the Office Action dated April 15, 1998, the Examiner alleged that the 1994 Stratagene catalog discloses the cosmid vector SuperCos1, Losson et al. (1983, Cell, 32:371-377) discloses that plasmids containing the appropriate origins of replication can function in both *E. coli* and *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, and Strasser et al. (U.S. patent 5,151,354 issued September 29, 1992) discloses a yeast cosmid shuttle vector.

Applicants respectfully submit that there is no suggestion in any of the references to combine the teachings of the references to arrive at the cosmid vectors used in the combinatorial gene expression libraries, let alone the biased combinatorial gene expression libraries made with such vectors as claimed. The references cited by the Examiner do not disclose or suggest biased combinatorial gene expression libraries in general. Nor do the references suggest biased combinatorial gene expression libraries using cosmid vectors as claimed. Thus, all the claims are unobvious, and the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is obviated. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments and remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the application. If any issues remain in connection herewith, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures